



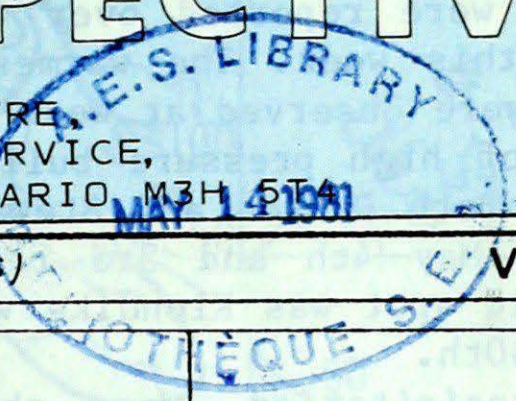
Environment Canada / Environnement Canada

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF CANADIAN CLIMATE

Atmospheric Environment / Environnement atmosphérique

CLIMATIC PERSPECTIVES

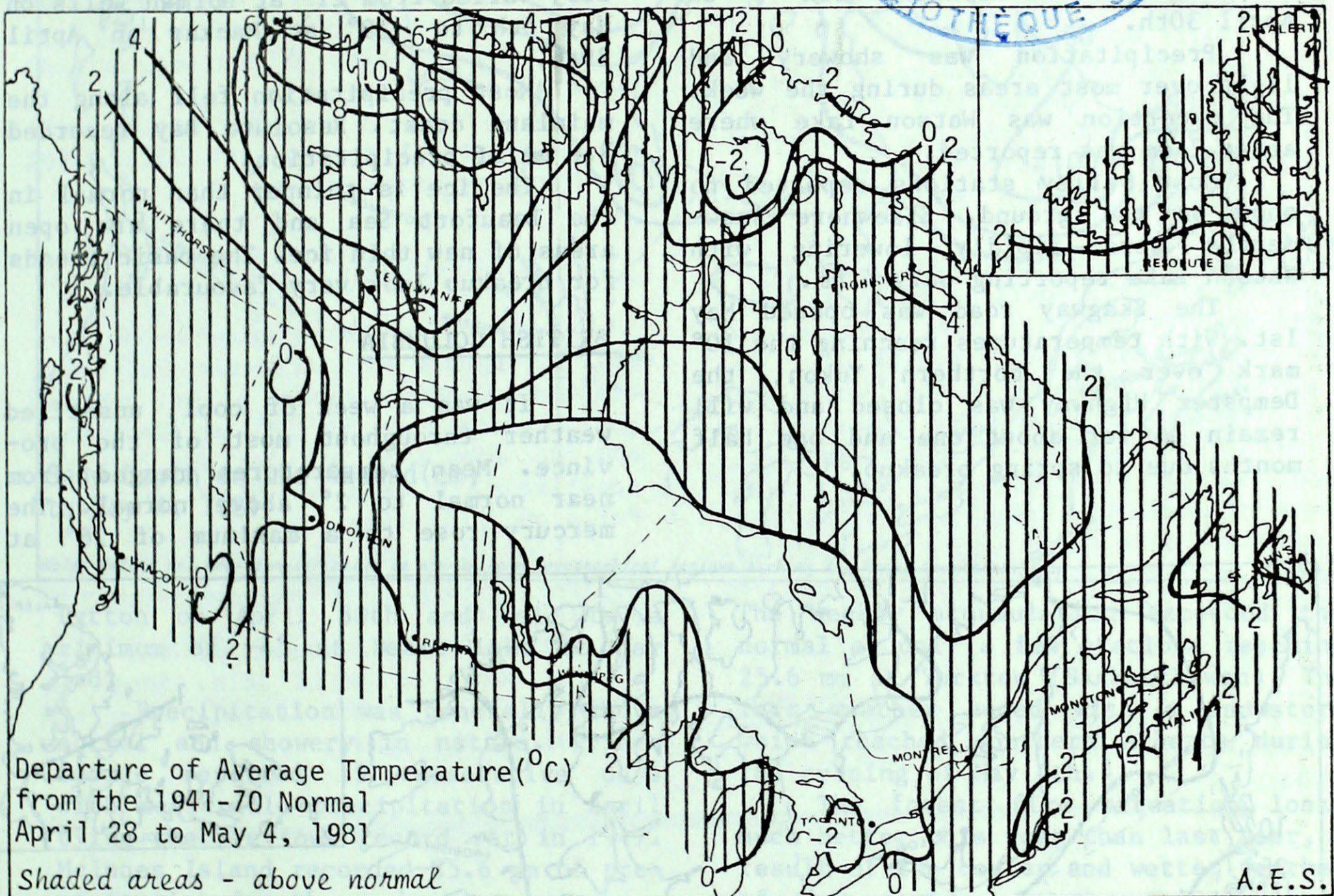
THE CANADIAN CLIMATE CENTRE,
ATMOSPHERIC ENVIRONMENT SERVICE,
4905 DUFFERIN ST., DOWNSVIEW, ONTARIO, M3H 5T4



MAY 8, 1981

(Aussi disponible en français)

VOL. 3 NO. 18



WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE PERIOD - APRIL 28 TO MAY 4, 1981

Warming in Southern Québec and in the Maritime Provinces

The temperature regime remained very similar to that of last week. The only changes were a warming in southern Québec and in the Maritime provinces and a strong cooling over Baffin Island.

Spring seeding is almost complete in southern Alberta and is progressing well in the central areas of Alberta. Corn seeding is nearly 40% completed in the Montréal area.

This year's mild and humid spring has resulted in a nearly fire free start to Alberta's forest fire season. This year fire damage is less than 1/500 of that which occurred by the end of April last year.

The temperature reached 26° in areas of southern B.C., Alta. and Sask. The mercury fell to -29° on April 29th at Mackar Inlet. Precipitation totalled 133.8 mm at Burgeo, Nfld.

NOTE: The data shown in this publication are based on unverified reports from approximately 225 Canadian and 115 northern United States Synoptic stations.

YUKON

Mean temperatures of over 3° above normal were reported over the central Yukon this week. The warmest temperatures were observed at week's end as a ridge of high pressure built over the Yukon. Both Dawson and Stewart reached 17° on May 4th and 3rd respectively. The cold spot was Klondike with -9° on April 30th.

Precipitation was showery and light over most areas during the week. The exception was Watson Lake where about 7 mm was reported.

Most valley stations reported no snow on the ground. Elsewhere snow-depths were rapidly lowering with Watson Lake reporting only 4 cm.

The Skagway road was opened May 1st. With temperatures reaching the 10° mark over the northern Yukon, the Dempster Highway was closed and will remain so for about one and one half months due to spring breakup.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

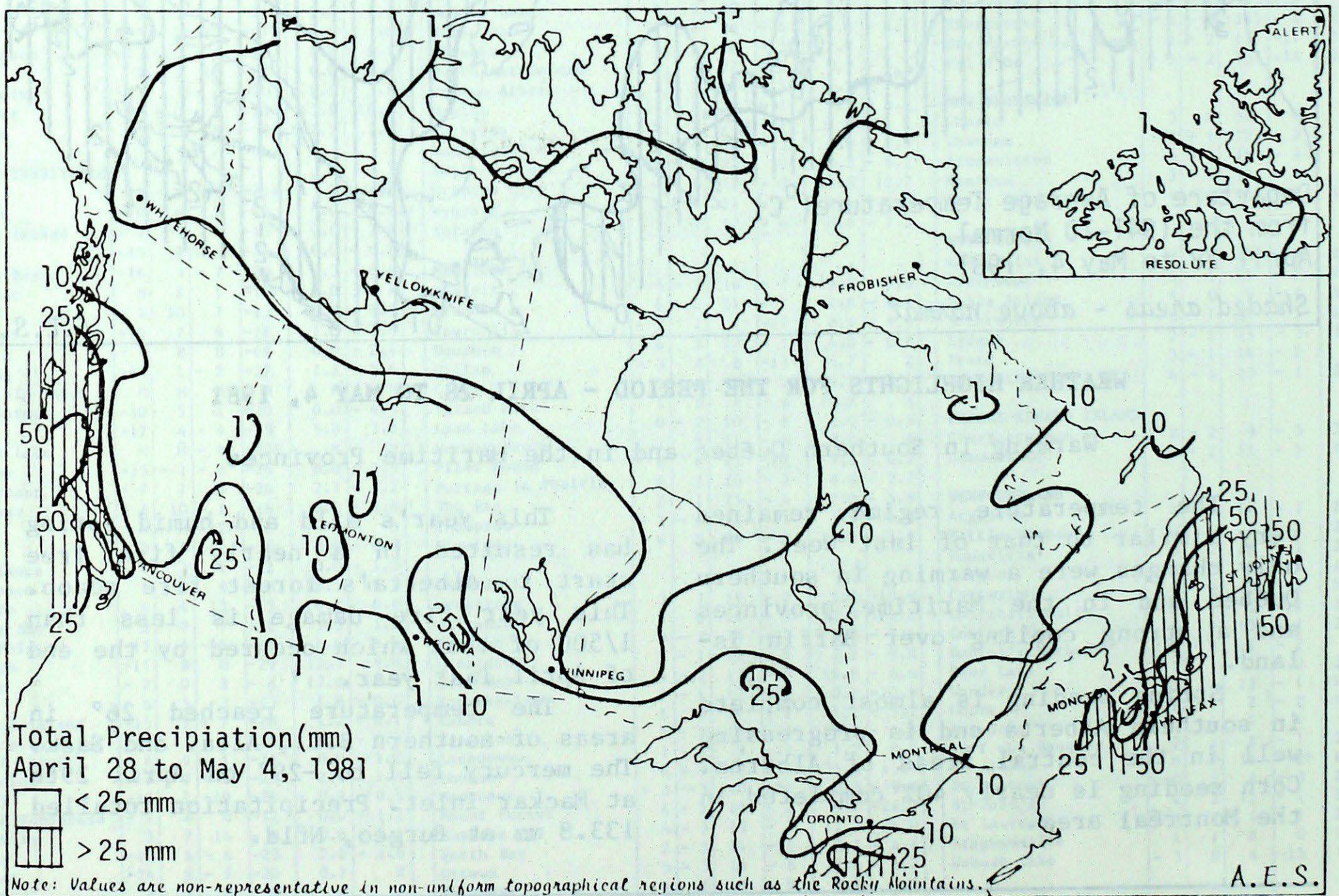
Temperatures remained above normal throughout most of the Territories this week. The only exception was in central Baffin Island where mean temperatures were 2° below normal. Mean temperatures exceeded 10° above normal along some areas of the Beaufort Coast. The mercury varied from 21° at Norman Wells on May 5th to -29° at Mackar on April 29th.

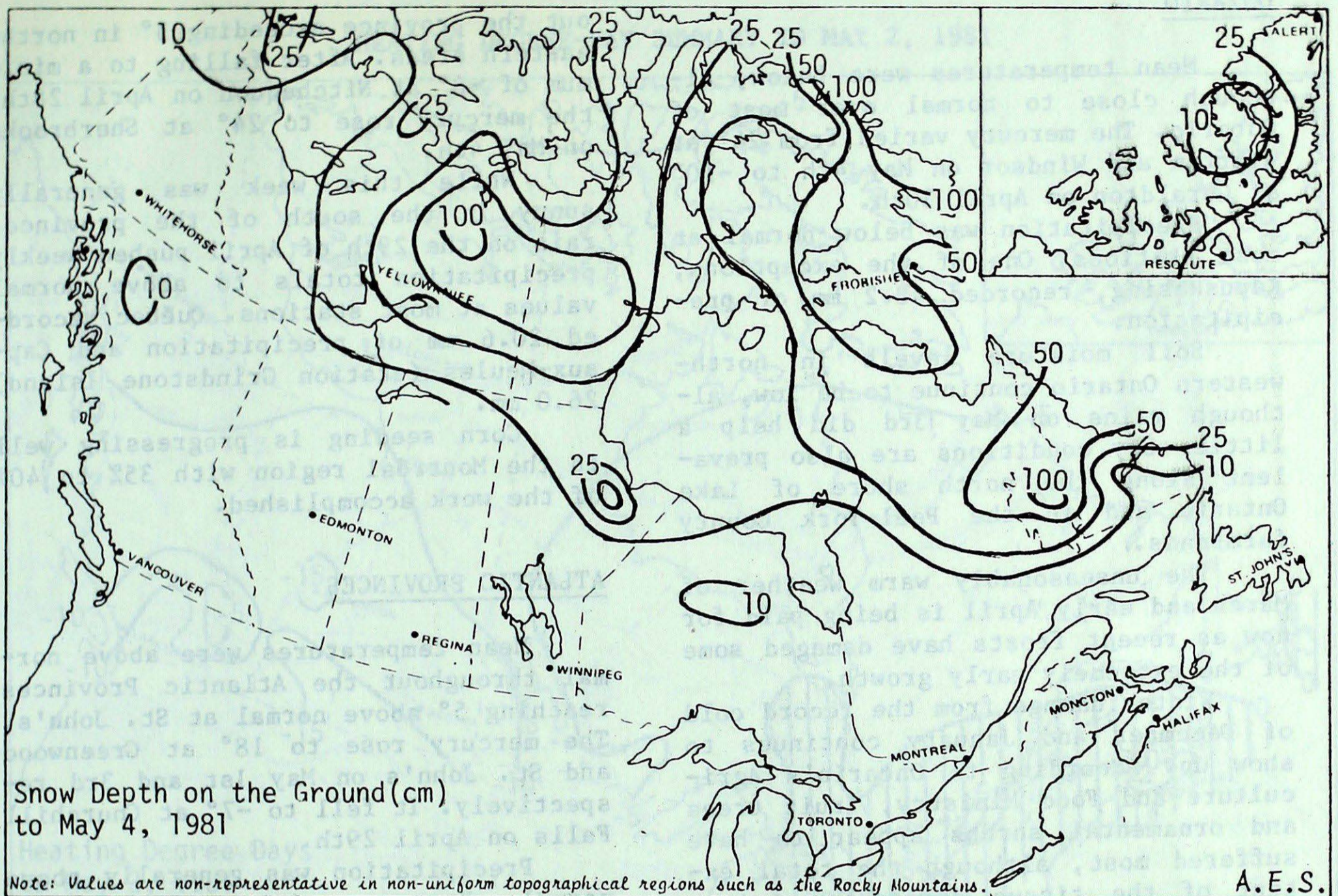
Most precipitation fell along the mainland coast. Resolute Bay recorded 8.8 mm of precipitation.

The ice is thinner than normal in the Beaufort Sea and there are open areas of new thin ice. The basic trends for breakup look very favourable.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

It was a week of cool, unsettled weather throughout most of the province. Mean temperatures ranged from near normal to 2° above normal. The mercury rose to a maximum of 26° at





Lytton on April 30th and fell to a minimum of -4° at Dease Lake on May 3rd.

Precipitation was generally above normal and showery in nature. Prince George reported 15 consecutive days with measurable precipitation in April tying the previous record set in 1947. McInnes Island recorded 85.6 mm of precipitation for the week.

There is no snow on the ground at Fort Nelson and the river ice has broken up.

PRAIRIE PROVINCES

The mild weather persisted to the last day of the period. The 7 day mean temperatures remained between 2° and 3° above normal at most stations with the exception of those in northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The mercury fell to -14° at Churchill on April 29. Two days later, it rose to 26° in south-eastern Alberta and southern Saskatchewan.

Overall, precipitation was scarce.

The weekly accumulation exceeded the normal at only a few stations reaching 25.6 mm at Yorkton (Saskatchewan). The fair weather ended with a snowstorm which reached southern Alberta during the evening of May 4th.

The forest fire situation looks much better this year than last year, a result of the cooler and wetter weather of this spring. By the end of April this year only 500 hectares were burnt compared to the 1/4 million burnt by the end of April last year.

Since, historically, May is the worst month for forest fires, each week ending without major losses is a relief.

The extent of the wind driven soil erosion is much greater than normal. It reached as far north as the Edmonton-Red Deer area, which is unusual. The spring seeding is almost complete in the southern areas of Alberta. The snowstorm which was only starting at the end of the period will be very beneficial.

ONTARIO

Mean temperatures were below, although close to normal over most of Ontario. The mercury varied from 24° at Wiarton and Windsor on May 4th to -10° at Geraldton on April 30th.

Precipitation was below normal at most stations. One of the exceptions, Kapuskasing, recorded 48.2 mm of precipitation.

Soil moisture levels in northwestern Ontario continue to be low, although rains on May 3rd did help a little. Dry conditions are also prevalent along the north shore of Lake Ontario and in the Peel-York County farmlands.

The unseasonably warm weather of March and early April is being paid for now as recent frosts have damaged some of the extremely early growth.

Winter damage from the record cold of December and January continues to show up. According to Ontario's Agriculture and Food Ministry, fruit trees and ornamental shrubs appear to have suffered most, although the total extent of the tissue damage is as yet difficult to determine.

QUÉBEC

With only a few exceptions, mean temperatures were above normal through-

out the province exceeding 3° in northeastern areas. After falling to a minimum of -8° at Nitchequon on April 28th, the mercury rose to 24° at Sherbrooke on May 4th.

While this week was generally sunny in the south of the province, rain on the 29th of April pushed weekly precipitation totals to above normal values at most stations. Québec recorded 20.6 mm of precipitation and Capaux-Meules (station Grindstone Island) 26.0 mm.

Corn seeding is progressing well in the Montréal region with 35% to 40% of the work accomplished.

ATLANTIC PROVINCES

Mean temperatures were above normal throughout the Atlantic Provinces reaching 5° above normal at St. John's. The mercury rose to 18° at Greenwood and St. John's on May 1st and 3rd respectively. It fell to -7° at Churchill Falls on April 29th.

Precipitation was generally above normal. Burgeo recorded 133.8 mm of precipitation.

The southern extent of the pack ice is north of Belle Isle. South of Hamilton Inlet there is only a narrow band along the coast.

CLIMATIC PERSPECTIVES

Staff

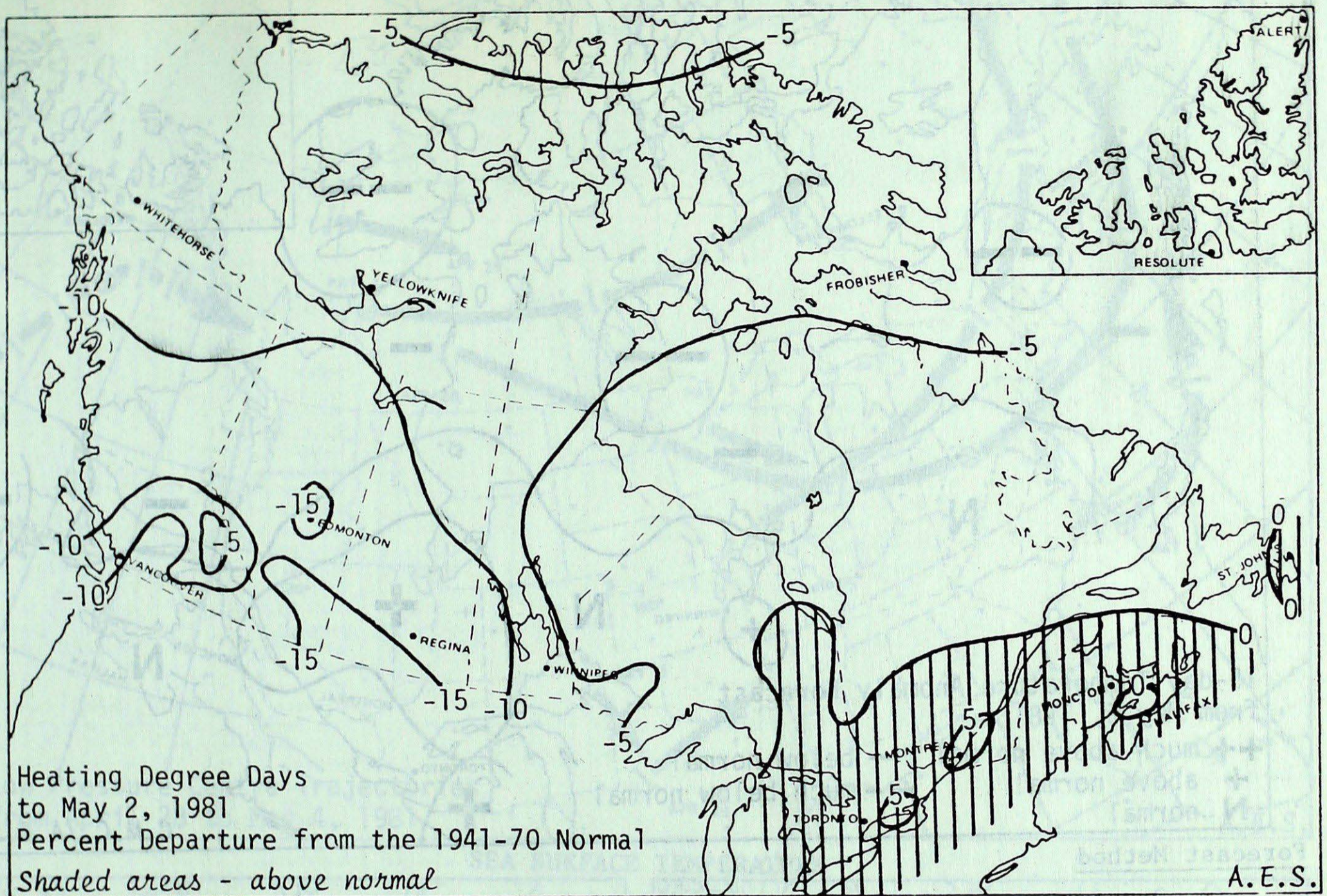
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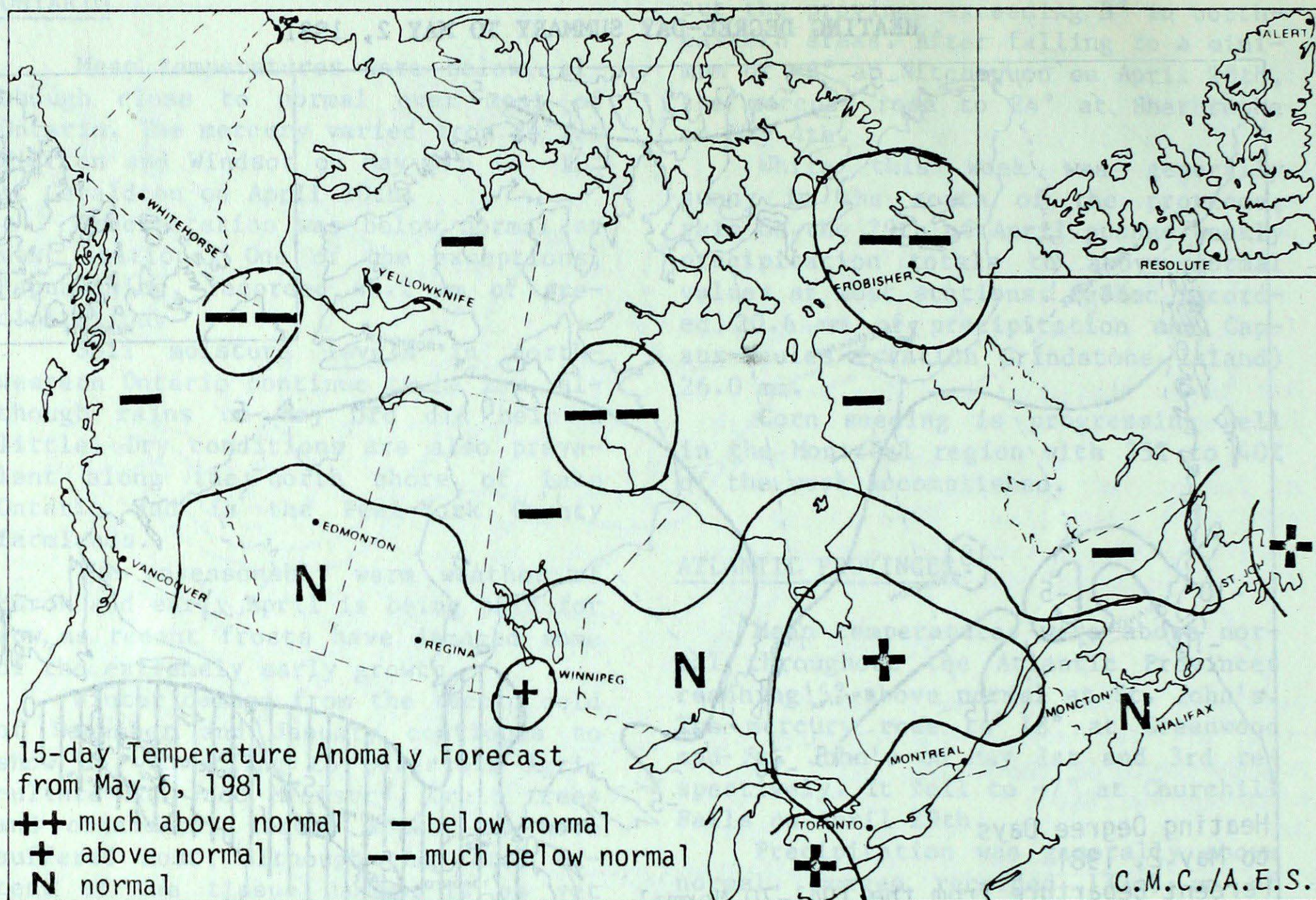
HEATING DEGREE-DAY SUMMARY TO MAY 2, 1981



STATION	MONTHLY CUMULATIVE TOTAL	MONTHLY DIFF. FROM 1941-70 NORMAL	SEASONAL TOTAL	SEASONAL DIFF. FROM 1941-70 NORMAL	SEASONAL PERCENT OF NORMAL
Resolute	59.0	-9.0	10793.0	-386.0	97
Inuvik	26.5	-25.5	8648.0	-750.0	92
Whitehorse	26.0	-2.0	5949.5	-448.5	93
Vancouver	16.0	0.0	2549.5	-214.5	92
Edmonton Mun	12.0	-6.0	4458.0	-818.0	84
Calgary	14.5	-9.5	4155.0	-795.0	84
Regina	10.0	-10.0	4821.5	-787.5	86
Winnipeg	15.0	-5.0	5127.5	-469.5	92
Thunder Bay	27.0	5.0	5180.5	-155.5	97
Windsor	18.0	4.0	3525.0	91.0	103
Toronto	22.5	6.5	4021.0	158.0	104
Ottawa	20.5	2.5	4569.0	103.0	102
Montreal	19.5	3.5	4551.0	270.0	106
Quebec	20.5	0.5	5031.5	239.5	105
Saint John, N.B.	18.0	-6.0	4494.5	120.5	103
Halifax	20.0	-4.0	3912.0	176.0	105
Charlottetown	22.0	-4.0	4296.5	65.5	102
St. John's, Nfld.	13.5	-14.5	4247.5	31.5	101

Note Due to computer related problems, the atmospheric circulation maps are not available this week. They will be included in the next issue.

15 DAY TEMPERATURE ANOMALY FORECAST

Forecast Method

Analogue technique based on point prediction at 70 Canadian stations.

Temperature Scale

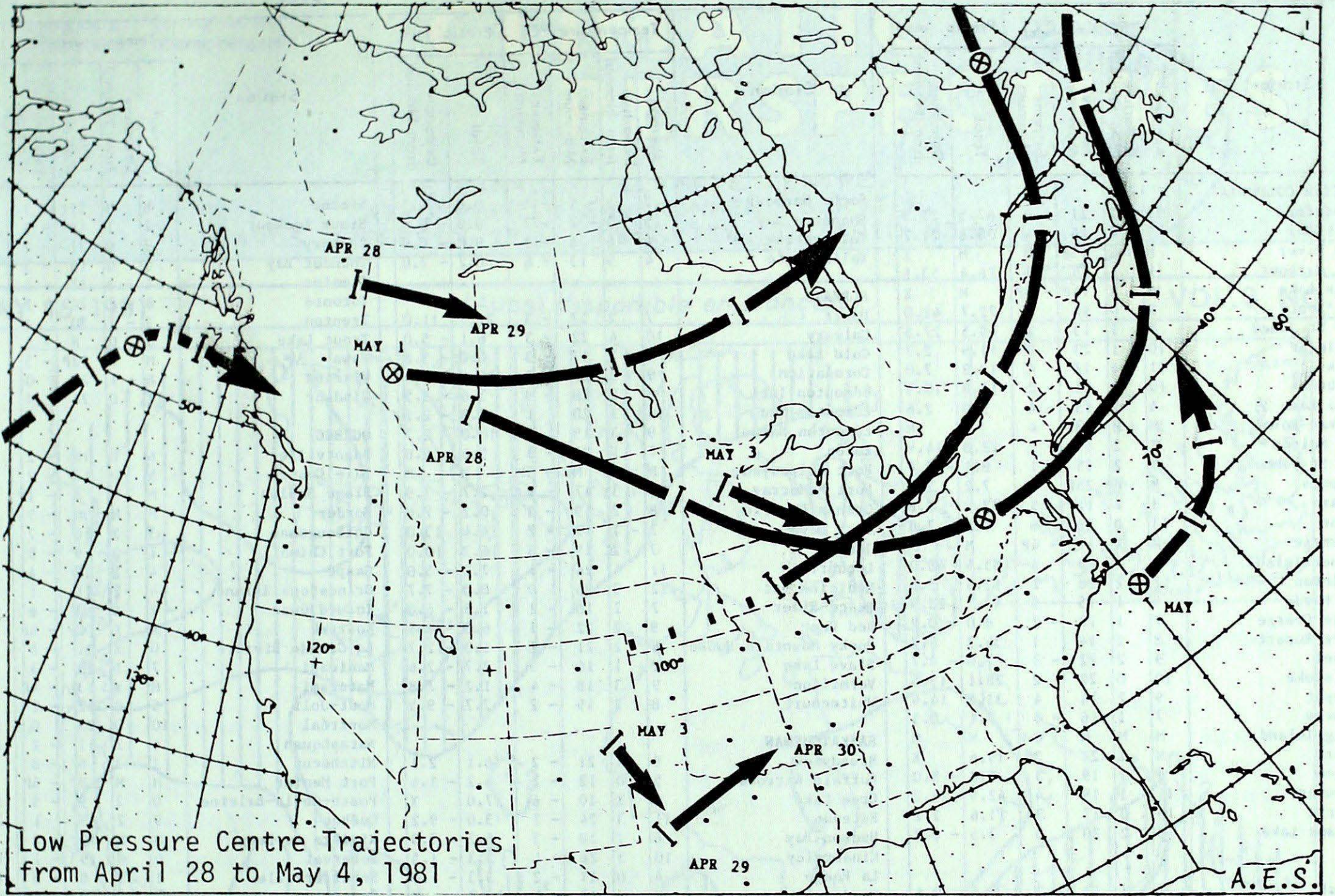
Each temperature class is designed to contain 20% of the historically observed 15 day means pertinent to specific location and time of year:

StationCurrent Temperature Anomaly Forecast

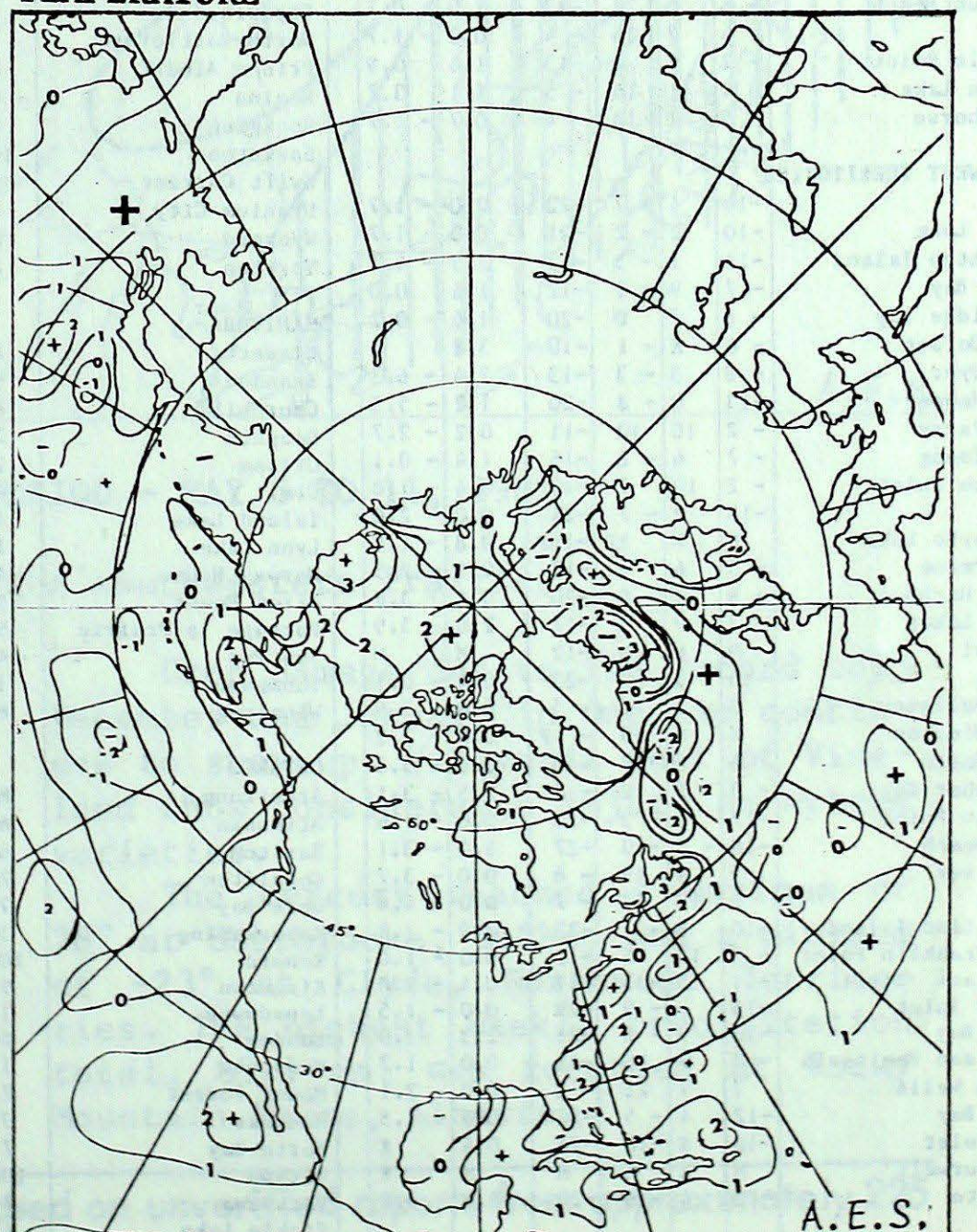
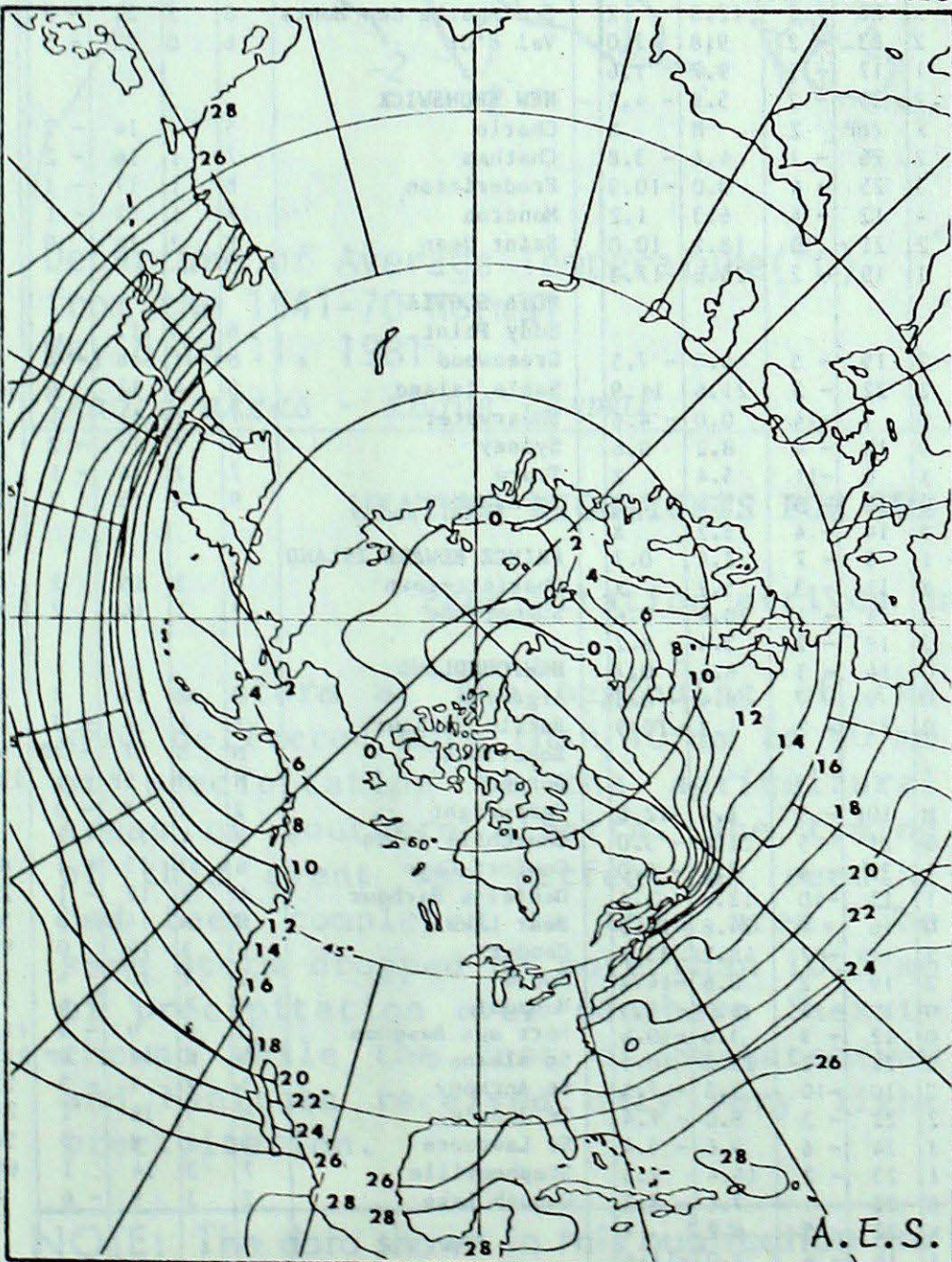
<u>Station</u>	<u>Current Temperature Anomaly Forecast</u>
Whitehorse	Below Normal From 0.5° to 1.6° below Normal
Victoria	Below Normal From 0.3° to 1.0° below Normal
Vancouver	Below Normal From 0.3° to 1.0° below Normal
Edmonton	Near Normal Within 0.6° of Normal
Regina	Near Normal Within 0.6° of Normal
Winnipeg	Above Normal From 0.7° to 2.2° above Normal
Thunder Bay	Near Normal Within 0.5° of Normal
Toronto	Near Normal Within 0.5° of Normal
Ottawa	Near Normal Within 0.5° of Normal
Montreal	Near Normal Within 0.5° of Normal
Quebec	Above Normal From 0.4° to 1.5° above Normal
Fredericton	Near Normal Within 0.4° of Normal
Halifax	Near Normal Within 0.4° of Normal
Charlottetown	Near Normal Within 0.5° of Normal
St. John's	Above Normal From 0.5° to 1.5° above Normal
Goose Bay	Below Normal From 0.5° to 1.8° below Normal
Frobisher Bay	Much Below Normal More than 2.5° below Normal
Inuvik	Below Normal From 0.9° to 2.9° below Normal

Note: Anomaly denotes departure from the 1949-73 mean.

LOW PRESSURE CENTRE TRAJECTORIES



SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE



TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA FOR THE WEEK ENDING 0600 G.M.T. MAY 5, 1981

Station	Temperature (°C)				Precip. (mm)		Station	Temperature (°C)				Precip. (mm)		Station	Temperature (°C)				Precip. (mm)	
	Average	Departure from Normal	Extreme Maximum	Extreme Minimum	Total	Departure from Normal		Average	Departure from Normal	Extreme Maximum	Extreme Minimum	Total	Departure from Normal		Average	Departure from Normal	Extreme Maximum	Extreme Minimum	Total	Departure from Normal
BRITISH COLUMBIA							Sachs Harbour	-7	5	-1	-15	0.0	-0.3	Simcoe	M	M	21P	1	M	M
Abbotsford	12	2	21	4	47.5	21.9	Shepherd Bay	15	3	-2	-27	0.0	-0.9	Sioux Lookout	7	1	18	-3	0.0	-15.4
Alert Bay	9	0	16	4	35.8	21.2	Tuktoyaktuk	-4	6	6	-11	0.0	-0.9	Sudbury	7	0	21	-2	16.1	-4.0
Blue River	M	X	13P	0	M	X	Yellowknife	4	5	13	-6	0.2	-2.0	Thunder Bay	6	0	16	-3	19.6	-2.3
Bull Harbour	9	1	15	3	76.4	53.1	ALBERTA							Timmins	4	-2	15	-6	15.6	-3.2
Burns Lake	M	X	16P	-3P	M	X	Banff	7	2	17	-3	21.7	11.0	Toronto	8	-2	20	-1	4.0	-9.3
Cape Scott	8	0	14	3	72.7	41.0	Calgary	10	4	22	-3	6.1	-5.0	Trenton	9	-1	20	1	4.0	-13.1
Cape St James	8	1	15	2	49.5	27.8	Cold Lake	8	3	17	-3	0.0	-5.8	Trout Lake	0	0	8	-8	0.8	-8.7
Castlegar	10	-1	23	2	11.9	2.7	Coronation	9	3	23	-2	16.6	8.4	Wawa	M	X	12P	-5	M	X
Comox	11	1	17	4	19.2	7.0	Edmonton Intl	8	2	20	-3	3.6	-3.5	Warton	8	-1	24	0	6.3	-5.1
Cranbrook	10	1	25	-2	17.8	10.9	Edmonton Mun	10	3	20	1	7.3	-2.1	Windsor	11	0	24	4	11.8	-5.9
Dease Lake	4	1	15	-4	5.0	2.6	Edmonton Namao	9	3	19	1	10.0	2.7	QUÉBEC						
Estevan Point	M	M	13P	4	M	M	Edson	7	1	21	-3	5.6	-5.8	Bagotville	6	0	18	-2	12.0	-0.3
Fort Nelson	7	2	19	-2	22.8	14.9	Fort Chipewyan	M	M	M	-3P	M	M	Baie Comeau	5	0	12	-2	9.6	3.8
Fort St John	8	2	15	-1	8.1	-0.4	Fort McMurray	8	3	17	-1	2.7	-3.9	Blanc Sablon	M	M	6	-1P	19.4	0.4
Kamloops	M	M	25P	6	7.2	3.0	Grande Prairie	8	2	19	-2	0.2	-7.6	Border	M	M	M	-5	M	M
Langara	8	1	11	5	32.2	7.8	High Level	7	-1	17	-2	14.4	13.0	Chibougamau	3	X	16	-7	6.2	X
Lytton	13	0	26	6	4.8	2.6	Jasper	7	2	19	-3	16.2	10.0	Fort Chimo	-1	3	9	-5	0.7	-3.6
Mackenzie	M	X	16P	-4P	M	X	Lethbridge	11	4	24	-1	7.2	-5.0	Gaspé	4	X	12	-4	11.4	X
McInnes Island	8	0	13	4	85.6	48.0	Medicine Hat	12	3	26	0	0.0	-7.7	Grindstone Island	4	2	11	1	26.0	13.9
Penticton	12	2	26	2	13.5	5.9	Peace River	7	2	16	-2	1.5	-6.0	Inoucdjouac	-2	4	3	-6	4.2	-0.1
Port Hardy	9	1	15	5	43.7	23.9	Red Deer	9	2	22	-1	6.8	-1.5	Koartak	M	X	2P	-6P	2.2	X
Prince George	7	1	18	-2	8.0	-0.2	Rocky Mountain House	8	2	21	-2	1.0	-12.7	La Grande Rivière	0	X	11	-6	7.8	X
Prince Rupert	8	2	14	1	36.3	6.7	Slave Lake	7	1	16	-3	2.7	-2.6	Maniwaki	7	-1	23	-3	13.0	-2.4
Quesnel	9	2	22	-3	2.0	-4.7	Vermilion	9	3	18	-4	1.2	-7.8	Matagami	M	X	13	-4P	1.9	X
Revelstoke	10	0	20	2	28.1	19.5	Whitecourt	8	2	19	-2	2.7	-9.5	Mont-Joli	5	0	12	-2	9.6	1.2
Sandspit	9	2	14	4	31.5	14.4	SASKATCHEWAN							Montréal	10	0	23	0	19.8	4.9
Smithers	7	1	16	-1	7.1	0.3	Broadview	9	4	21	-2	16.1	2.1	Natashquan	4	2	11	-2	15.4	-0.5
Spring Island	M	M	M	6	M	M	Buffalo Narrows	5	0	12	-2	6.2	-1.6	Nithecun	1	3	6	-8	7.1	-0.4
Stewart	M	X	21	2P	19.6	X	Cree Lake	2	X	10	-6	17.0	X	Port Menier	M	M	8P	-3P	M	M
Terrace	9	2	19	3	6.8	-8.0	Estevan	11	3	24	-2	3.0	-9.2	Poste-de-la-Baleine	0	2	9	-5	11.8	5.2
Vancouver	11	1	19	4	42.9	29.2	Hudson Bay	6	1	18	-3	5.2	-3.0	Québec	9	2	19	1	20.6	5.4
Victoria	10	0	17	3	11.6	2.2	Kindersley	10	3	26	-1	3.3	-1.5	Rivière du Loup	M	M	13P	-2	M	M
Williams Lake	8	2	20	0	3.5	-0.8	La Ronge	4	0	11	-2	3.3	-1.4	Roberval	6	0	19	-1	14.0	5.2
YUKON							Meadow Lake	8	X	17	-3	13.0	X	Schefferville	3	1	10	-2	11.4	-1.6
Burwash	3	1	12	-7	3.6	0.6	Mouse Jaw	9	2	25	-1	0.6	-12.4	Sept-Iles	8	1	24	-2	11.4	1.9
Dawson	7	3	17	-6	1.0	-3.3	Nipawin	7	X	20	-3	12.8	X	Sherbrooke	8	2	21	-3	13.2	-2.6
Komakuk Beach	-6	5	1	-17	1.0	0.7	North Battleford	9	2	23	-2	9.8	2.0	Ste Agathe des Monts	8	2	21	-3	13.2	-2.6
Mayo	6	2	16	-4	0.0	-1.7	Prince Albert	8	1	17	-5	9.7	1.6	Val d'Or	6	0	22	-5	3.4	-6.9
Shingle Point	-2	7	7	-13	1.6	0.9	Regina	9	2	25	-2	5.9	-4.2	NEW BRUNSWICK						
Watson Lake	4	1	16	-5	7.1	3.7	Rockglen	M	X	26P	2	M	X	Charlo	5	1	14	-2	14.8	-1.9
Whitehorse	5	1	13	-4	0.7	-1.7	Saskatoon	10	2	26	-2	4.4	-3.8	Chatham	7	1	16	-2	16.8	4.8
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES							Swift Current	9	3	25	-4	0.0	-10.9	Fredericton	8	1	17	-1	22.0	11.9
Alert	-15	1	-7	-22	0.0	-1.7	Uranium City	4	4	12	-4	6.3	1.2	Moncton	7	1	15	-1	18.1	4.4
Baker Lake	-10	2	-2	-21	0.0	-1.7	Wynyard	8	2	21	0	18.2	10.0	Saint Jean	8	2	16	0	45.6	21.3
Broughton Island	-11	1	-5	-15	2.5	-4.4	Yorkton	8	1	19	-2	25.6	17.3	NOVA SCOTIA						
Byron Bay	-7	9	-1	-12	1.6	0.0	MANITOBA							Eddy Point	6	X	13	1	62.6	X
Cambridge Bay	-8	7	0	-20	1.6	-0.2	Bissett	8	2	19	-5	0.0	-7.5	Greenwood	8	1	18	-2	7.0	-7.8
Cape Dorset	-6	X	-1	-10	3.8	X	Brandon	9	2	22	-3	21.6	11.9	Sable Island	8	4	12	4	102.0	84.1
Cape Dyer	-8	3	-3	-13	2.4	-6.3	Churchill	-6	0	1	-14	0.0	-4.6	Shearwater	7	1	15	1	51.7	27.6
Cape Hooper	-13	0	-8	-20	1.2	-5.5	Dauphin	7	0	18	-4	8.2	0.6	Sydney	5	1	12	-2	53.3	34.3
Cape Parry	-2	10	10	-11	0.2	-2.7	Gillam	-2	X	6	-11	5.4	X	Truro	7	2	16	-1	32.0	19.1
Cape Young	-7	6	-2	-15	1.4	-0.1	Gimli	6	0	18	-3	1.6	-7.2	Yarmouth	9	3	15	2	29.0	6.5
Clinton Point	-2	10	7	-10	0.6	-1.8	Island Lake	4	X	14	-4	5.2	X	PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND						
Clyde	-15	-3	-7	-24	0.0	-2.0	Lynn Lake	1	-1	9	-7	7.4	0.7	Charlottetown	7	2	15	2	48.5	30.0
Contwoyto Lake	M	M	1P	-10P	0.8	-1.8	Norway House	4	X	11	-3	5.2	X	Summerside	7	1	14	2	24.0	9.1
Coppermine	-5	6	4	-12	0.9	-2.5	Pilot Mound	9	3	21	-1	20.4	9.6	NEWFOUNDLAND						
Coral Harbour	-9	2	0	-20	0.4	-3.8	Portage la Prairie	9	2	19	-2	3.4	-8.2	Argentia	7	X	15	2	45.2	X
Dewar Lakes	-12	3	-8	-17	2.6	-3.9	The Pas	1	0	9	-7	8.4	-0.3	Battle Harbour	1	1	4	-3	11.6	-0.6
Ennadai	M	M	M	-12	M	M	Thompson	8	0	21	-2	1.8	-10.9	Bonavista	M	M	17	-1P	42.0	28.2
Eureka	-15	3	-7	-23	0.4	-0.1	Winnipeg	8	0	21	-2	1.8	-10.9	Burgeo	M	M	9P	-1	133.8	97.6
Fort Reliance	3	7	11	-5	0.0	-2.9	ONTARIO							Cartwright	2	2	8	-3	9.7	-8.2
Fort Simpson	M	M	19	-4P	0.0	-7.2	Armstrong	M	M	10P	-9	1.4	-12.8	Churchill Falls	2	4	11	-7	6.0	-5.7
Fort Smith	6	3	17	-3	0.0	-5.3	Atikokan	8	3	21	-5	11.8	-3.0	Comfort Cove	6	3	15	-1	87.2	59.0
Frobisher Bay	-3	5	0	-8	2.5	-3.1	Earlton	6	-1	22	-4	7.4	-5.0	Daniel's Harbour	4	2	12	-1	25.8	12.8
Gladman Point	-12	5	-2	-25	0.0	-1.6	Geraldton	2	-1	13	-10	12.8	3.4	Deer Lake	M	M	14P	-3	56.5	39.5
Hall Beach	-18	-3	-10	-27	1.0	-3.1	Gore Bay	7	0	16	1	24.6	10.9	Gander	6	3	14	0	90.3	72.3
Hay River	5	4	19	-6	0.0	-3.7	Kapuskasing	3	-2	14	-7	48.2	35.2	Goose	3	1	10	-4	19.6	5.0
Inuvik	2	10	13	-7	0.0	-4.6	Kenora	10	2	19	2	0.6	-14.4	Hopedale	0	2	7	-6	13.6	-1.0
Jenny Lind Island	-10	8	-1	-23	0.0	-1.3	Kingston	9	0	19	-1	8.0	-4.5	Port aux Basques	3	0	9	-3	113.8	94.0
Lady Franklin Point	-5	10	5	-12	0.0	-1.0	Lansdowne	1	0	12	-9	3.0	-10.6	St Albans	M	M	13	OP	213.0	177.3
Longstaff Bluff	-11	3	-5	-17	0.4	-1.0	London	8	-3	22	-2									